



State of Washington
Health Information Infrastructure
Advisory Board

September 22, 2005



Topics to be Covered

- Overview of the Alliance
- Performance Measurement
- Health Information and Technology
- Anticipated EMR Support Roles



The Puget Sound Health Alliance

- Incorporated in December 2004
- A collaborative approach
 - Purchasers, providers, plans, patients
- A regional approach
 - King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston
- An integrated strategy
 - Quality improvement is the foundation
 - Sharing cost and quality improvement data is essential for performance improvement
- Building on what works (evidence-based)



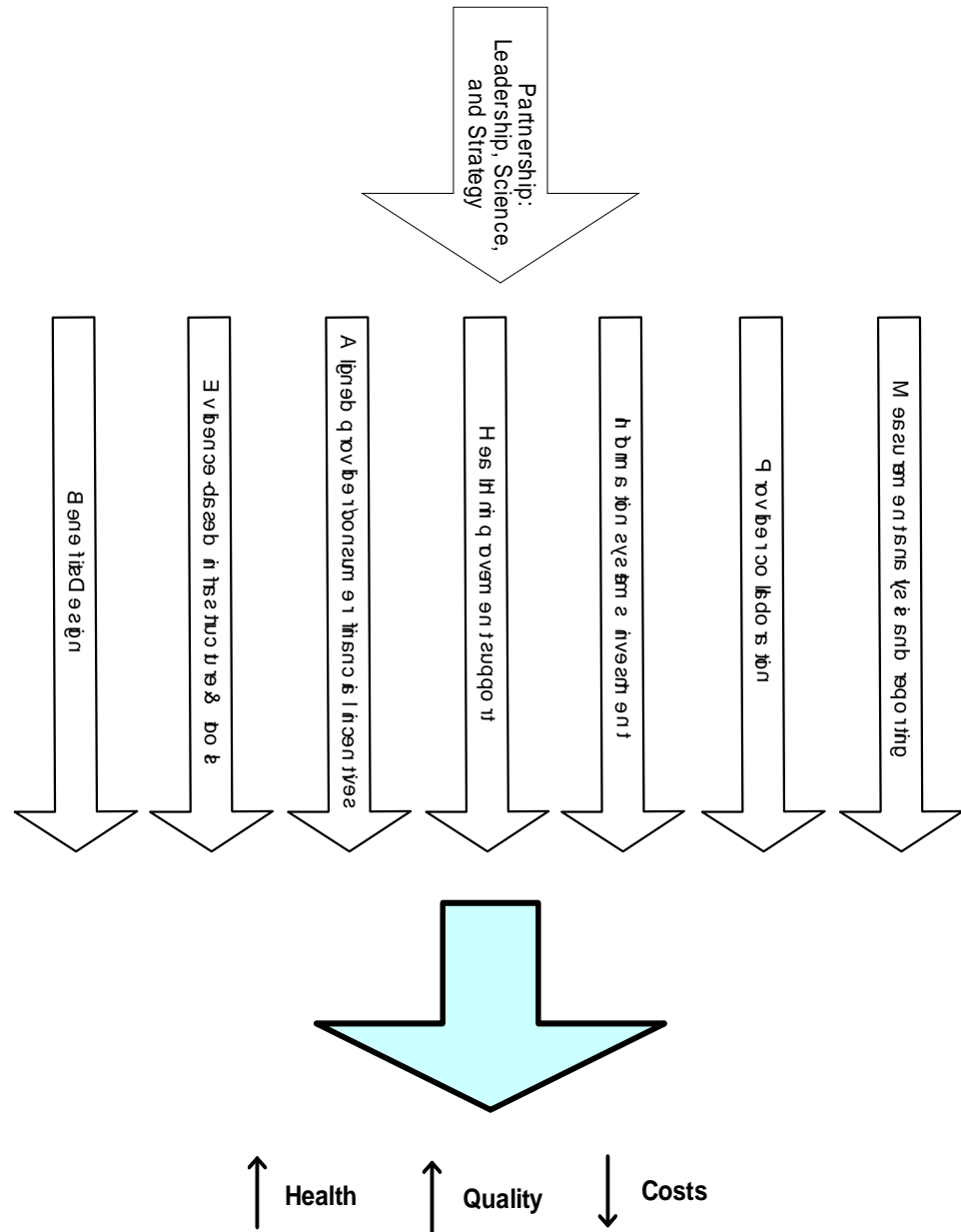
Alliance Key Goals

- Improve the quality of care
- Improve the health outcomes for the community
- Slow the rate of increase in health care expenditures in the Puget Sound region
- Improve consumers' and providers' ability to become partners in managing health
- Ensure collaborative decision-making based on evidence



Alliance Mission

- To forge a leadership alliance among patients, health care professionals, purchasers, and plans.
- To design and implement an innovative, high quality, and affordable health care system for the Puget Sound community.





Progress to Date

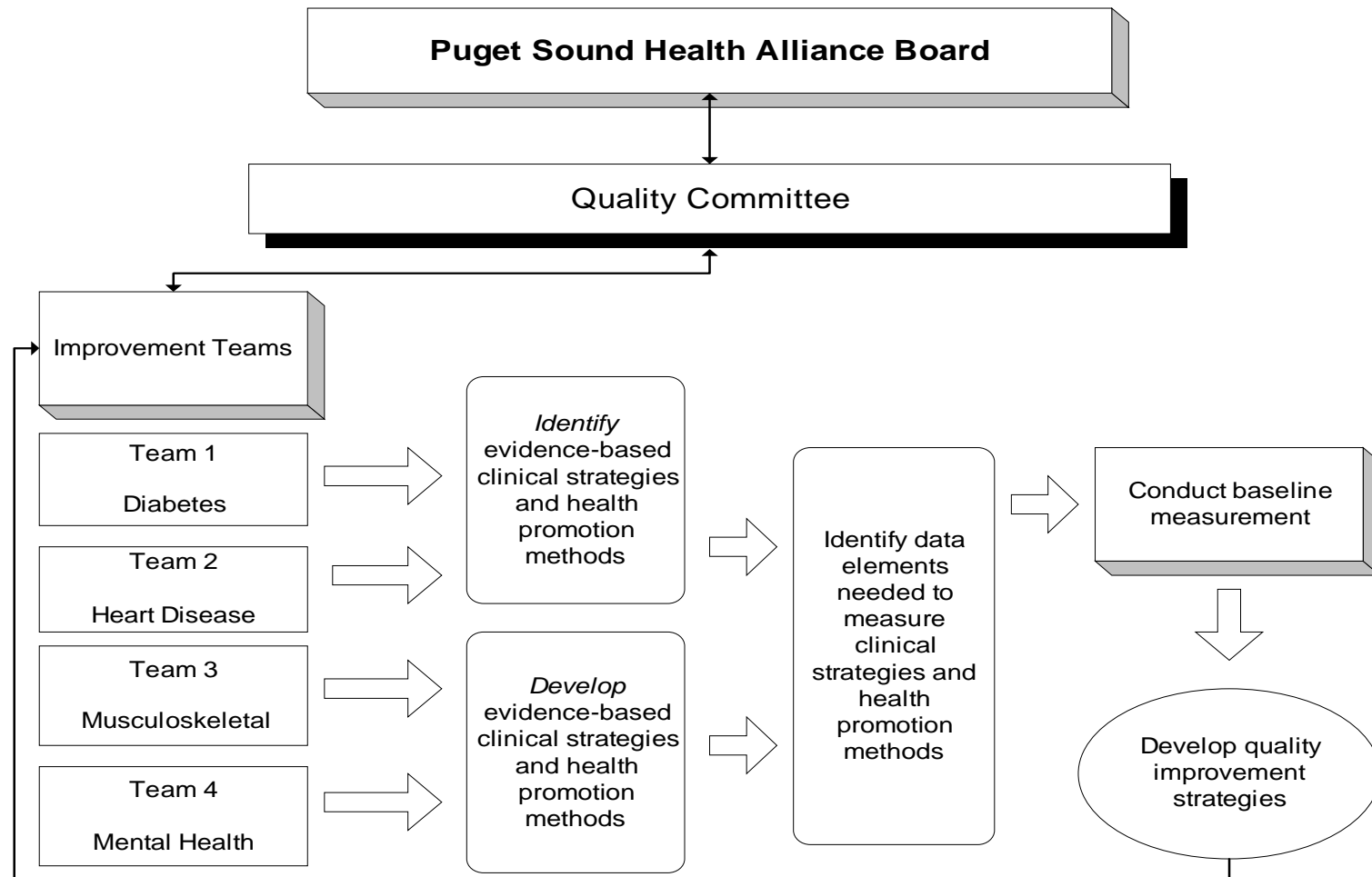
- Over 60 organizations are now participating in the Alliance, representing over 700,000 covered lives
- Alliance Board of Directors has met monthly since April
 - Selected four initial clinical areas of focus
 - Announced our quality improvement committee
 - Appointed health information & technology committee and communication committee
 - Adopted 2005 work plan and budget
 - Brainstormed what our successes should be in one and three years, and outlined our image in the community
- 6 ● Hired a staff of five, growing to seven by end of 2005



What the Alliance Will Do

- Promote uniform, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the region's providers and plans to use
- Distribute patient education and self-management tools
- Provide patients with reliable and understandable information to assist in them in their decision-making
- Provide purchasers with information to help them:
 - Design employee health benefit programs (align incentives),
 - Reward providers who are improving health care quality, and
 - Develop strategies to slow the increase in health care costs.
- Build a regional data reporting capability using uniform, national performance measures of quality care

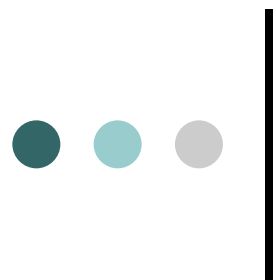
Quality Improvement Process





Performance Measurement

- Essential for quality improvement
- Apply uniform, nationally-vetted standards
- Reduce inconsistent metrics, administrative burden
- Open and transparent sharing of information
- Ensure complete patient privacy at all times
- Approach: “A rising tide lifts all boats”
- Requires accurate, timely and comprehensive data



Health Information & Technology

- Blue-ribbon committee guiding our effort
- Collaborative participation of all key parties
- Build a repository or access to shared data?
- Initially - based on administrative data (claims)
- Ultimately - based on electronic clinical data
- Do not re-invent the wheel nor hinder it's roll
- Align with emerging federal and state standards
- Cost-effective access to accurate and timely data



Expected EMR Support Roles

- Encourage widespread EMR adoption
- Promote standardization across sites
- Align financial and quality incentives
- Emphasize interoperability
- Encourage patient access to information
- Help however we can (...tbd)



Next Steps

- Coordinate Closely with HIIAB
- Promote Transparency
- Promote Standardization
- Promote Broad Inclusivity
- Promote Collaboration

We look forward to working with you!



Puget Sound Health Alliance

Questions?